MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--According to Jerusalem radio, an IDF spokesman announced that after a Libyan force in the Ad-Damur area south of Beirut fired SAM-9 missiles at an Israeli reconnaissance flight, Israeli planes responded by attacking and destroying the missile battery and a Palestinian base. In a further report, the radio said the air force had destroyed four SAM-9 missile launchers containing 16 missiles as well as a number of military vehicles during the afternoon raid. According to the Voice of Lebanon, the Israelis destroyed two Palestinian naval bases, a rocket base and a number of artillery and radar installations. Confirming the raid, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said the Israeli planes hit civilian targets in the Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah areas. It denied that SAM-7 and SAM-9 missiles were fired at Israeli reconnaissance planes, pointing out that these missiles cannot reach the altitude at which such planes fly. In an interview with the radio, a Palestinian military official said 20 to 25 Israeli planes, including Phantoms, participated in the attack, which continued for several hours. Citing a Palestinian spokesman, AFP reported that 25 people were killed and 100 wounded in the raid. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, four Libyans were among the dead. Beirut radio said SAM-9 missiles were fired unsuccessfully at the raiding aircraft. Voice of Palestine said another Israeli air raid during the evening was directed at the Al-'Urqub area as well as at Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah.

Toward midnight Israel naval units landed in the An-Na'imah area, killing seven persons, Beirut radio reported. Earlier the Voice of Palestine reported Israeli artillery shelling in the south, while IDF radio said the Palestinians exchanged fire with Maj Sa'd Haddad's Christian militia. The Voice of Palestine also reported that Israeli infantry have moved into the border strip town of Al-Qulay'ah. In the capital, Beirut radio reported renewed artillery exchanges and the Voice of Palestine said a car bomb killed two people and wounded five. Voice of Lebanon radio said Syrian artillery fired at the remnants of Qa'ar-rim and at Zahlah. According to IDF radio, two Syrian divisions along the front line of the Golan Heights are now on a high state of alert. The radio also said a Syrian armored brigade is poised on the Lebanese border ready to reinforce troops inside Lebanon where the Syrians have made preparations to absorb large artillery forces.

Begin Interview--In an IDF radio interview Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin said the Libyans in Lebanon "got what was coming to them." Asked if the Israeli raid on the Libyan missiles had implications for the Syrian missiles deployed in Lebanon, Begin said: "For the moment, we have destroyed the Libyan missiles; after this, we will see."

Tzipori Remarks--Jerusalem radio quoted Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori as saying that an "unpleasant" military reinforcement process is occurring in Arab countries and that the Syrian state of alert has been stepped up. According to the radio, Tzipori said Israeli forces are prepared to give a suitable response. Questioned by IDF radio on how long Israel will be able to wait while the Syrians continue their state of alert Tzipori responded that priority must be given to any chance of a political compromise.

Palestinian Comment--Reacting to the Israeli raids in Lebanon, a Palestinian revolution command military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by the Voice of Palestine, said Israel's latest aggression stems from the plot hatched by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib during his recent tour of the Middle East. He said the raids confirm that Israel is preparing for a wide-scale aggression against southern Lebanon. He also noted that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat presided over two emergency meetings of the executive and higher military committees in the wake of the Israeli activity and in order to adopt measures to confront it.

Butrus-Khaddam Meeting--Beirut radio reported that Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and his Syrian counterpart, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, held talks at the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) headquarters in Shtawrah on the general situation in Lebanon and the work of the quadrapartite committee formed to follow up the resolutions of th Tunis conference. The meeting was attended by ADF Commander Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib. The radio quoted Butrus as saying that he and Khaddam decided to contact the other members of the committee to fix a date for the committee meeting. Butrus also said U.S. special envoy Habib's mission has frozen the situation to a certain extent that perhaps there will be an opening for some positive developments.

Saudi Message--Damascus television reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received the deputy commander of the Saudi National Guard, who presented a message from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Syrian Comments--In a commentary on the Lebanese crisis, Damascus radio said U.S. diplomacy has found itself stuck during the past 3 weeks because the current crisis is a result of Israeli attacks against Lebanon and not of Syrian missiles. It maintained that diplomatic efforts will not be in the least effective if they do not aim at curbing Israel's aggressive policy.

Egyptian-Israeli Talks

Jerusalem and Cairo radios reported that Israeli Prime Minister Begin and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat will meet in Ofira on 4 June to discuss bilateral relations and the situation in Lebanon. According to Jerusalem television, Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres and President as-Sadat will meet on 7 June in Al-'Arish. In an interview carried live by Jerusalem television, Peres said that Prime Minister Begin would be better off waiting until after the Israeli elections before meeting with As-Sadat and that Begin's meeting is intended for electoral purposes. Questioned on the issues we will discuss with As-Sadat, Peres said he will reiterate Israel's basic positions on Mideast issues and assess the general situation in the area.

Sinai Peacekeeping Force

According to Cairo Radio, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt, Israel and the United States have reached agreement on most questions concerning the establishment of a Sinai multinational peacekeeping force but that the problem of financing has not been solved and will be discussed further at the next tripartite meeting in Tel Aviv on 9 June. MENA reported that the heads of all three delegations expressed optimism at a Cairo press conference about reaching an agreement.

Jordan

Amman radio reported that at a Kiev dinner held in his honor by the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium, King Husayn said his talks with Soviet officials were characterized by frankness, seriousness and accuracy and were aimed at determining the best course for confronting the challenges facing the Arab nation. The radio said the king praised Arab-Soviet friendship and the Soviet Union's support for Arab rights.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported that Iranian forces have penetrated up to 7 km inside Iraqi territory at some points along the western border and that Iraqi forces have retreated more than 17 km in some areas. It also said Iranian units besieged the Bani Banuk garrison in Iraq, foiling Iraqi attempts to break the siege. The radio said one Iraqi helicopter was downed in the operation. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, transmitted by INA, said the Iraqi Armed Forces downed seven Iranian Phantoms in the southern sector and raided Iranian positions in the Paveh region of Iran's Kermanshah Province.

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PALESTINIAN STATEMENT ON 28 MAY ISRAELI RAIDS

NC290631 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 May 81

[Statement by a military source of the Palestinian Revolution Command--read by announcer]

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Ad-Damur, An-Na'imah and Al-'Urqub were the target of violent Israeli raids. Israeli long-range artillery also shelled Sidon and its suburbs. Israeli aircraft flew repeatedly over Beirut and northern Lebanon--over Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps. As a result of these raids, human and material losses took place in the ranks of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. In view of the dangerous situation resulting from this development in the new Israeli military escalation, the Palestinian revolution would like to affirm the following:

1. This savage aggression reveals the reality of the plot hatched by Philip Habib during his tour. These raids and resulting losses are just bitter fruits of the U.S. envoy's tour, the price of which is being paid by the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples from the blood of children, women, old people and fighters.

2. These raids confirm that the Israeli enemy is mobilizing his forces and making preparations to launch a wide-scale aggression against Lebanon, particularly against the south.

3. The Palestinian revolution will not stand idle in view of the Zionist war of extermination against our Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

In view of the seriousness of the situation resulting from the Zionist aggressions yesterday, which were directed against Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah, the brother commander in chief [Yasir 'Arafat] followed the developments in the military situation resulting from the Israeli aggression from the operations room. He presided over two emergency meetings of the Executive Committee and the Higher Military Committee. Military measures were adopted to confront any possible development at any moment, particularly in view of the intensive Israeli military concentrations in the south, the overflight of helicopters during the night, the movement of war vessels along the Lebanese coast and the landing attempt between An-Na'imah and the family beach, which lasted about 20 minutes.

The Israeli aggression, covering a large area and employing aircraft, war vessels, artillery and rockets, was mainly concentrated against the areas of Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah. The Zionist enemy prepared for the aggression with an information campaign, claiming that Palestinian SAM missiles are stationed in the two areas. The Zionist air attach on Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah began at about 1500 yesterday and lasted 1 and 1/2 hours; it was resumed at 1815. The second air attack was directed at the Al-'Urqub area in addition to Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah.

VOP INTERVIEWS PALESTINIANS ON ISRAELI RAIDS

JN282005 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1734 GMT 28 May 81

[Excerpts] Brothers, following is a recorded radio dispatch on the treacherous Zionist raid on the areas of Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah: Until this evening, the Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah areas were being subjected to an intensive and savage bombardment by the Zionist air force. The bombing aimed at civilian quarters in the two townships. The raid began at 1445 and lasted more than 4 hours. With unique valor and high morale, our joint forces and the Lebanese and Palestinian masses repulsed these barbaric Zionist-U.S. raids. Many civilians were wounded: men, children, women and elderly. Our radio microphone was there where we followed up the progress of these raids. Following is a recorded dispatch which we began with a meeting with Brother Adham, military official in charge of Ad-Damur:

[Begin recording] [Question] Brother Adhma, will you tell us when the raid began?

[Answer] At about 1510.

[Question] How long did it last?

[Answer] It lasted until 1640.

[Question] Were you able to determine the type of planes which participated in the raid?

[Answer] Yes, they were of different types. There were Phantoms and perhaps other types of planes.

[Question] How many planes were there?

[Answer] The ones we saw raiding were four. However, my military estimate is that four planes raid and four others overfly them to cover them. The ones entrusted with bombing targets were four. That is, I estimate about 10 planes were in each raid.

[Question] You believe that all the planes which participated in the bombing over a period of 2 hours are about 30 to 40 planes?

[Answer] I estimate not less than 20 to 25 planes. [explosions heard in the background] It seems that the air force has started bombing again. We expect more raids because the Zionist enemy is known for his arrogance. We have taken all precautions to repulse the enemy. [shouts and sound of firing heard in the background]

[Question] Brother Adham, in your opinion, what is the reason behind these intensive and savage raids?

[Answer] It is clear that they want to bring the Palestinian revolution to its knees. At the same time, they want to defy our brother Syrians in Lebanon.

[Question] What would you like to tell the Arab regimes now?

[Answer] I would like to tell them enough waiting and merely looking at the bases of the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian and Lebanese masses and the masses of the Lebanese National Movement. We are proud to be fighting alone in the Middle East region, we and the Lebanese masses and the Lebanese National Movement.

[Question] It is clear that the bombing which we just saw was aimed at civilian positions. Did the previous raid, which lasted about 2 hours, also aim at civilian positions?

[Answer] Yes, yes. Many civilian targets were bombed. This is not the first time that the Zionist enemy has bombed civilian targets.

[Question] What is the connection? The situation in Beirut is now being made to explode. Do you think that the isolationists are making it explode? Do you think there is a connection between the escalation in Beirut, this bombardment and the ending of Philip Habib's unsuccessful visit?

[Answer] Naturally, the Zionist enemy and the isolationists in Lebanon coordinate their stands. I have just received a note that the Sidon area is being shelled by artillery. Therefore, there is a connection between these events, knowing that the Zionist enemy is no different from the isolationists in the Arab region.

[Question] Brother Adham, what would you like to tell the Zionist enemy?

[Answer] I tell the leaders of the Zionist enemy that we will stand fast despite all our sacrifices. We have no choice but to stand fast. Let all our enemies and friends far and near know that we will stand fast. [sound of explosions and gunfire heard in the background; sound of antiaircraft fire]

[Question] Do you think this state of affairs will continue?

[Answer] I believe that it will not end simply and in a short time. This war of annihilation is a Zionist-U.S. decision. [more sounds of explosions and gunfire]

[Question] Brother Adham, what would you like to tell the fighters of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces?

[Answer] All I have to say is further steadfastness and more sacrifices because our enemy is fierce. It is U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

[Question] Brother Adham, we leave you now so you can devote your time to follow up matters and military operations in these critical moments. We hope that all these raids will fail, just as they have failed in the past.

[Answer] May I add a few more words addressed to my kinfolk in our cherished homeland of Palestine? They should know that these raids do not affect us at all. Further steadfastness and strong will and clinging to the land in the occupied land. [end recording]

We also had another interview with one of the brothers who repulsed the Zionist air force in its recent raid on the areas of Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah:

[Begin recording with unidentified interviewee] Brother, this is our duty and the duty of all Arabs, to repulse these planes. The Arabs are asleep. The Palestinian revolution is fighting alone. [end recording]

Brothers, we had another interview with another of the brothers who participated in repulsing the Zionist air force which tried today to raid the Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah region.

[Begin recording] [Question] Hello, can you tell me what your task was during the raid?

[Answer indistinct]

[Question] How did you deal with the planes?

[Answer] We did well. We prevented them from bombing their targets from long distance.

[Question] We can still hear gunfire. Are there still any planes in the air?

[Answer] Only reconnaissance photography flights.

[Question] What were the areas bombed?

[Answer] The An-Na'imah and Ad-Damur regions.

[Question] Were the positions bombed military or civilian ones?

[Answer] They were civilian positions, not military.

[Question] How was the morale of the people?

[Answer] It was high. [end recording]

FATAH OFFICIAL DENIES PLANS TO MEET ISREALI ENVOY

LD281400 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1223 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Kuwait, 28 May (KUNA)--The Palestinian leader Khalid Al-Hassan has denied any knowledge of a proposal which Israel radio attributed to King Hassan II of Morocco, calling for a meeting between Mr al-Hassan and an Israeli envoy.

In a statement to KUNA Mr al-Hassan said that the enemy radio broadcast of this report, which constitutes an extremely wicked Zionist method, is nothing more than an example of Zionist propaganda which is based in spirit, [word indistinct] details and aims on deception, lies and confusion. Furthermore, we have no knowledge at all of such a proposal.

Israeli radio alleged that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin turned down a request by King Hassan II to send a delegate to meet Mr al-Hassan, who is a member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian fida'i movement, Fatah. The radio also alleged that Israeli Labor Party Leader Shimon Peres also turned down a request to arrange a meeting with the Palestinian official.

In his statement today, Mr al-Hassan said one should not even think of holding a meeting with people such as Begin and Peres, for political, principled and humane reasons, in view of the terrorism and hostility to the Palestinian people, the Arab nation and to everything which is not Zionist, which each of them represents at both a personal and party level. None of the Palestinian people can, is allowed to or has the right to oppose the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council, the parliament in exile, which forbids a meeting with any Zionist Jews of the enemy state. [words indistinct] Concluding, he said: Anyone such as Begin and Peres, who proceeds from the annihilation of the Palestinian people and their revolution by assassination and bombing, is met only by the rifle and on the battlefield.

VOP SAYS U.S., ZIONIST PLOTS WILL NOT SUCCEED

JN282015 Clandestine Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1734 GMT 28 May 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. sources say that the Reagan administration is very pleased because Ambassador Habib made progress by preventing the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East. This would have been true or logical had Ad-Damur and Na'imah been located in Southeast Asia and not in the Middle East, had the planes which raided the Palestinians not been made in Philip Habib's country and had those who pressed the buttons on these planes been of unidentified identity and affiliation. How could the American administration find anyone who would listen to its sickening talk, blatant lies and fabrications when today's acts of aggression, which it boasts that its envoy had been successful in extinguishing,have reached such heat and brutality. Or does the American administration still consider that the killing of Palestinians is not an aggressive action and that the crimes of its Zionist tool are the acme of peaceful and civilized actions?

The American administration is trying to cover the sun with a sieve. It is trying to suffocate the noise of guns, shells and planes by dreamy statements issued by the White House as if nothing had happened. The U.S.-Israeli planes came to Na'imah and Ad-Damur today. They strafed and destroyed in order to prove everyone that the center of aggression is still ablaze, the U.S.-blessed and bloody plan is still taking the designed line and the Palestinian rifle, man and rights are the target of everything they say through Philip Habib or the others who did their best to prepare the right atmosphere for the attack and to complete the stages of the old-new conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution and the rights of its people.

If the Americans and their small Zionist and traitor agents believe it is easy for them to attack the Palestinians under an umbrella of sedative and peaceful statements or that the Palestinians are the easiest prey on which to give vent to the exasperation, confusion and imbalance of their game in the region, we tell them that this belief is futile, barren and delusive. The Palestinians, against whom bloody schemes are being prepared, will not be an easy target or a guaranteed prey. They are stronger and of more depth and influence than the calculations of the Americans and their agents.

Had this not been true, the Americans would have succeeded long ago in ending this unique Palestinian phenomenon, which has been steadfast and has grown along with its struggle against them--a struggle we know to be long, bitter and bloody.

We said it long ago. The Palestinian fact is the strongest in this part of the world. All those who understand and realize the dimensions of any event in the region have also believed in this. No matter what the Americans and the Zionists hatch in the way of brutal massacres, political conspiracies and deceptive traps, this fact will become stronger, deeper and more entrenched. The fate of the region is to continue to be tied to the Palestinian fact with all of its local, national and international dimensions. We do not believe that those who have not been able to obliterate it for 33 years will be successful this time.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES AL-QADHDHAFI CABLE OF SUPPORT

JN281603 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1445 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received a cable today from Libyan president Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressing support for the Palestinian revolution in its confrontation of As-Sadat's visit to Sudan, which aims at bypassing the PLO and striking at the just cause of the Palestinian people.

Al-Qadhdhafi described As-Sadat's visit to Sudan as dangerous, because it violates the resolutions of the Baghdad and Tunis Arab summits and of the Arab League. He added that the Sudanese regime had taken this step in defiance of the Arab nation, stressing that it should be confronted firmly by imposing on the Sudan regime a similar boycott to that on the Egyptian and Zionist regimes. Al-Qadhdhafi said that Sudan's continued membership in the Arab League contradicts the Arab League's Charter and its aims and that if it is not expelled, then we can all be accused of high treason by our peoples and our nation.

The cable concluded by stressing the dangers of this step and hoping that the necessary measures against Sudan will be taken in implementation of the Baghdad resolutions.

SAUDI ARABIA

AR-RIYAD REPLIES TO BEGIN'S ATTACK ON SAUDI ARABIA

LD281423 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 23 May 81 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Kingdom and Its Historic Role"]

[Excerpts] It was not surprising that the terrorist Begin should lose what was left of his self-restraint, unleash all the malice and hatred that filled his heart and hurl abuse at the leaders of this country. Indeed this attitude on the part of the commander of the Dayr Yasin massacre and all the other massacres is what every Arab would expect from such a terrorist after he has lost all the cards of the farcical peace he concluded with Anwar as-Sadat's regime.

Such hysterical behavior by Begin betrays the frustration and disappointment he feels after seeing his dreams imposing his peace on the area collapse one after the other and realizing that the Arab nation, with its resources and capabilities, can thwart his designs and that isolating Egypt from its sisters does not mean that the Arab nation has been completely paralyzed or that it is no longer able to continue the struggle against Zionist ambitions and the dreams of Zionist leaders.

Zionist terrorist Begin is alarmed by the steadfastness of the Arab nation and on every occasion he reiterates that the Arab nation's struggle for legitimate rights came to an end as soon as his government signed the Camp David peace with Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. But when his dreams were shattered on the rocks of Arab resistance and the Palestinian people's steadfastness in their just struggle, Begin found no alternative other than hurling abuse at the leaders of the Arab nations and particularly this country's leaders.

As Prince Fahd said to the Saudi news agency when he urged the Arab nation to shoulder its national responsibility in facing up to Israeli threats to grab more Arab territories. "A few days ago Begin spoke in Galilee about crushing the Palestinians. Today he is killing Palestinians not because they are fedayeen but merely because they are Palestinians. This is genocide that the Arabs should not allow to continue because national duty makes it incumbent upon the Arabs to get together quickly and to take practical steps to halt the expanding Zionist danger. Yesterday it was Jerusalem, today it is southern Lebanon, and tomorrow it will be the Golan. This calls for a comprehensive national confrontation."

Fahd also said: "The mere mention by Begin of the Saudi role means two things: First, that the Saudi role does actually exist and, second, that Begin feels the impact of our role and is disturbed by it to the extent that he lost self-control. Moreover, what would one expect from a Zionist racist and terrorist other than abuse and insults? Begin's open attack on the kingdom is a medal of which we are proud."

Indeed, abuse is all that is left in the quiver of this professional terrorist.

YAR

PDRY MILITARY DELEGATION LEAVES SAN'A' 28 MAY

JN281533 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Brother members of the southern part of the homeland in the Joint Military Committee led by Lt Col Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Bitani, deputy interior minister, left San'a' for Aden after concluding the meetings of the joint committee which were held in San'a' from 24-27 May.

In a predeparture statement to SABA' news agency, Brother al-Bitani expressed his happiness with the constructive results reached during the meetings of the committee.

He thanked the members from the northern part of the homeland, who were led by Lt Col 'Ali Muhammad Salah, for their sincere efforts to make a success of the session.

The PDRY delegation was seen off at the airport by brother deputy chief of staff for military affairs and head of the northern part in the committee, the members of the committee and brother head of the Unity Affairs Office.

The Joint Military Committee issued a final statement which said: In an atmosphere of fraternal understanding, the Joint Military Committee for both parts of Yemen held its first session for 1981 in San'a' between 24 and 27 May 1981 under Brothers Lt Col 'Ali Salah, deputy chief of staff for military affairs in the northern part of the homeland and Brother Lt Col Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Bitani, PDRY deputy interior minister.

The two sides discussed a number of issues pertaining to the building up of the Yemeni Armed Forces and the bases for unifying them. The work of the session achieved complete agreement and success. At the time when the Joint Military Committee for both parts of Yemen thanks and praises the political commands of parts of Yemen for their sincere efforts to achieve our people's hopes, destiny and fate in unity, it stresses its determination to continue the rest of its work in a responsible fraternal spirit in the interest of the Yemeni people. At the end of its first 1981 session, the committee decided to hold the next session in Aden.

PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN SAN'A' 28 MAY

JN281406 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, foreign affairs minister in the southern part of the homeland, arrived in San'a' this morning on a visit [words indistinct]. In a statement to the SABA' News Agency, he said that he would convey an oral message to Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, from his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the southern part of the homeland.

He said that the message deals with bilateral affairs, developments in the Yemeni arena, [words indistinct] which entrench the bases for restoring the unity of the homeland and developments in the Arab arena in these grave circumstances which require joint coordination and a united stand that will strengthen Yemen's stand in the common pan-Arab struggle.

He was received at the airport by Brother Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawri [name indistinct], chief of protocol in the Foreign Ministry and Muhammad al-'Ammari, director of the unity affairs office.

PDRY CHAIRMAN MEETS SOVIET NAVAL COMMANDER

LD281646 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Assembly and of the Council of Ministers, received in his office at noon today Comrade Adm (Mikhail Nikolovich), commander of the group of Soviet Navy warships currently visiting Aden harbor [name and rank as received].

During the meeting, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad welcomed the friendly visit being made to Aden harbor by the crews of the Soviet naval warships. He expressed his confidence in the strengthening and development of the relations of cooperation and friendship between democratic Yemen and the friendly Soviet Union. The meeting was attended by Naval Maj Ahmad Abdallah, commander of the naval forces, and Comrade Feliz Fedotov, the Soviet Union's ambassador in Aden.

AS-SADAT, BEGIN TO DISCUSS LEBANON AT SUMMIT

NC282018 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz has stated that the Lebanese situation will be the first topic that President Anwar as-Sadat will discuss with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin during their meeting in Sharm ash-Shaykh on 4 June proceeding from Egypt's concern to reduce the tense situation in Lebanon, and act to maintain Lebanon's independence and unity and bar interference in its domestic affairs. They will also discuss issues relevant to bilateral relations.

The United States today expressed satisfaction with the announcement of the summit meeting in Sharm ash-Shaykh between Egypt and Israel next week. The State Department official spokesman voiced his hope that the summit meeting between President Anwar as-Sadat and Menahem Begin will lead to reducing tension in Lebanon.

MULTINATIONAL FORCE TALKS END; PROGRESS CITED

NC281901 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] The meetings of the Egyptian, Israeli and U.S. delegations on the formation of the multinational force in Sinai concluded this evening. Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and head of the Egyptian delegation made a statement at the final session. He said that tangible progress has been made in the negotiations to form the multinational force. He said that agreement has been reached on a number of points and that the remaining points will be discussed at another meeting among the delegations in Tel Aviv on 9 June. The heads of the Israeli and U.S. delegations made statements in which they dwelt on the progress that has been made in the negotiations. They expressed their hope that the remaining points will be surmounted.

Delegation Meets Press

NC282132 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1939 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)--Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and head of the Egyptian side to the Egyptian-U.S.-Israeli talks on the multinational peace-keeeping force in Sinai has stated that the talks, which lasted 3 days, were extremely fruitful. He said that great progress has been made in certain points and that certain points need further discussions at a meeting among the three delegations in Israel on 9 June.

At a press conference held by the heads of the three delegations following the final meeting in Mena House this evening Dr al-Baz said that the talks have emphasized that the parties are committed to implementing the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel and to strengthen peace as a step on the road to a comprehensive and permanent peace in the area. Al-Baz further said: We are satisfied with the results we have reached during this first tripartite meeting among us during which a friendly atmosphere prevailed. We are optimistic that during our forthcoming meeting we will complete the work on the multinational force.

Head of the U.S. delegation Michael Sterner said that the talks were extremely useful. He said: I can say that we now have a framework for the agreement that we are seeking to prepare according to the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Several technical points were discussed and we have made big progress. There are points that need further discussion at our forthcoming meeting in Israel. In reply to a comment by a journalist, Sterner said that when the issue is connected with discussing the manner of keeping peace, there must be certain complicated issues that need technical discussions in order to reach an agreement between the parties. Asked about the points that have been discussed and agreed upon and the points on which no agreement has been reached, Sterner said: I cannot talk about this. However, I believe that both sides have a desire to reach their aim.

But there are some technical points that need further discussions. Sterner said that the talks were very good and that they began at a bilateral level 3 months ago.

Head of the Israeli delegation John [as received] Kimche has expressed his optimism about reaching an agreement on the multinational force. In reply to a question Kimche said both parties have certain sensitive points that need further discussions. He said that both parties are doing their utmost to achieve the aim. Kimche pointed out that this comprehensive study is due to the fact this is the first time a force has been formed outside the United Nations. This matter required discussing legal, political and military points to reach an agreement on this subject.

Asked about the reasons for forming this force, Kimche said: The peace treaty provides for forming an emergency force which we have not been able to form because of the position of a Security Council member state. He further said that Egypt held contacts with the United Nations concerning this issue. The contacts, however, showed that it was not possible to achieve this and thus we resorted to forming a multinational force.

Answering a question, Dr Usamah al-Baz said that the meeting between President Anwar as-Sadat and Menahem Begin on the Egyptian territory of Sharm ash-Shaykh is within the framework of strengthening relations between the two countries and is also for the purpose of studying the issue to which Egypt accords its first concern, namely, the establishment of security and peace in Lebanon, the preservation of Lebanon's unity and independence, the prevention of foreign intervention there and the prevention of escalation, and, consequently, the preservation of the region's security.

He added that the continuation of the consultations between President as-Sadat and Mr Begin strengthens bilateral relations as part of the peace agreement concluded between the two countries, "although so far there is no official agenda for this meeting."

Answering a question about the effect of this meeting on the Israeli elections, Dr al-Baz said: "We in Egypt are outside the issue of the elections. Only the Israeli people have the right to choose whoever they want. We do not interfere in the domestic affairs of Israel by helping one person or another. We deal with any Israeli government."

In reply to another question, Dr Usamah al-Baz said that Egypt has always given priority to the formation of a UN emergency force. This, he said, was its first target and it made concerted efforts to achieve it, but we could not achieve it because of the attitude of certain Security Council members. Therefore, we resorted to the alternative, which is forming a multinational force.

He added: "Thus, the multinational force was not our choice. Our first choice was a UN emergency force. We resorted to the multinational force only as an alternative, while leaving the door open for the formation of a UN emergency force any moment this becomes possible." He pointed out that none of three sides chose the multinational force course. Asked if agreement was reached regarding the size of this force, Dr al-Baz said: "Yes."

MENA has learned that the sovereignty of Egypt on every foot of its territory was the main topic on which Egypt concentrated during the talks and on which the sides agreed.

During the second round of these talks, scheduled to be held in Israel on 9 June, it is expected that agreement will be reached on all points. It is also expected that the draft agreement on the multinational force will be completed. It will be considered as an agreement that will complement the peace agreement. The heads of the three delegations are also expected to be authorized by the foreign ministers of the three countries to initial the agreement that will be reached. The foreign ministers of Egypt, the United States and Israel will then meet in one of the three capitals to sign the agreement.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 350

JN281655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 28 May (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces today shot down seven Iranian Phantom planes in the southern sector of the operational theater, five by Iraqi aircraft and two by the ground defenses. This came in Communique No 350 issued a short while ago by the Armed Forces General Command. The communique said that Iraqi aircraft had raided enemy positions and concentrations in the Iranian Paveh region in Kermanshah Province, scoring direct hits before returning safely to base.

The text of Communique No 350 issued by the Armed Forces General Command is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

With enthusiasm and high morale, our triumphant armed forces pounded the forces of the Magian, racist and ignorant Persian regime in the operational sectors last night and today, with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One of our forward units engaged a force of enemy infantry and charlatan Khomeyni guards in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin, forcing it to flee after killing 14.
B. Eight were killed and five infantry positions and two stockpiles of hardware were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
C. Nine were killed and three infantry positions and one tank were destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
D. Four were killed in the Meymak region in front of our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. Seven were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Mehran region.
F. One of our forward units hit an enemy personnel concentration in front of their positions in the Dezful region and forced it to flee, after killing 17.
G. Eight were killed and one tank, one armored personnel carrier and one observation post were destroyed in the Shush region.
H. One infantry position and one vehicle were destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
I. Our units pounded enemy positions and concentrations in the Abadan region, inflicting the following losses: Nine killed and four infantry positions, two tanks, two fieldguns, one vehicle, one observation post, and three stockpiles of hardware destroyed.
J. Seven enemy Phantom fighter planes were shot down this morning in the southern sector of the operational theater, five were downed by our fighter planes and two by our ground defenses.
K. Our planes today raided enemy positions and concentrations in the Iranian Paveh region, scored direct hits and returned safely to their bases.

Thus, total known enemy losses are: 76 killed and 13 infantry positions, 4 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 2 fieldguns, 2 vehicles, 3 observation posts, 5 stockpiles of hardware and 7 Phantom fighter planes destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 19 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Three vehicles, five mortars and one excavator damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 May 1981

BRIEFS

POWER GENERATOR CONTRACT--Baghdad, (INA)--Tahir Tawfiq, Revolution Command Council (RCC) member and minister of industry and minerals, today signed a contract worth 30 million Iraqi dinars (about $100 million) with a foreign company to erect 5 power-generating units. The first of the 180-megawatt units capable of operating on four alternative kinds of fuel is to start functioning after 10 months while the others will start functioning successively within a period of 1 month after completion of the first unit. [Baghdad INA in English 1515 GMT 27 May 81 JN]

AL-WAZZAN ASSAILS ISRAELIS ON 28 MAY RAIDS

NC291033 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 May 81

[Text] Commenting on yesterday's Israeli attacks against the An-Na'imah hills, Ad-Dalahmiyah and Ad-Damur, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today said: At a time when the world, both the international community and the Arab brothers, are trying to heal our wounds and prevent harm from befalling us, we find Israel striking our areas and continuing its attacks against us, disregarding the world's opinions and sentiments and all the pains of the Lebanese people.

The fabricated entity that was established in the Arab body is the one that is harming the area's peace and interests and the world's peace. The international society must realize this fact and act on its basis.

BUTRUS, KHADDAM HOLD TALKS IN SHTAWRAH 28 MAY

NC281739 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] The meeting between Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Shtawrah today lasted about 2 hours. Following the meeting, Minister Butrus said: I met with Brother Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to deliberate on the situation in the area and Lebanon and to exchange views on the nature of the work of the followup committee that was formed recently. We decided to sound out the views of the other members of the committee so that we may submit these views to President Ilyas Sarkis, who will make the appropriate decision. Naturally, it was an opportunity for us to review the topics that could be discussed by the followup committee. As a result of our talks, we will submit our views and proposals to his excellency the president, who will choose the options under the circumstances.

Minister Butrus added: The aim behind reviving the followup committee on the foreign ministers level is to give momentum to a process that may lead to ending Lebanon's ordeal and tragedy. We hope that the followup committee will generate a new momentum. On the outcome of U.S. envoy Philip Habib's mission, Minister Butrus said: It is difficult to pass a final and firm judgment on the outcome of envoy Philip Habib's mission. However, I believe it has frozen the situation to a certain extent and perhaps it will be an opening for some positive results. In any event, I prefer not to anticipate events and to wait for developments.

Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam was asked about his view of the Soviet Union's call for an international conference on the Middle East crisis. He said: We have already declared that we welcome the Soviet initiative. I believe the Soviet Union is serious in its initiative to find a just and lasting peace.

On the security measures, Khaddam said: We discussed questions pertaining to the quadripartite committee. We also discussed the overall situation in Lebanon and the various developments. We agreed to contact our brothers the members of the committee to set an early date for the meeting.

Asked whether he believes something positive will emerge from the Arab followup committee meeting, Khaddam said: Naturally, I am always optimistic despite the existence of several negative factors that are trying to worsen the situation in Lebanon, including the Israeli factor and the Israel intervention. This must not prevent us from exerting every possible effort to restore security and peace in Lebanon and to halt the Israeli influence in Lebanon.

VOL REPORTS ON ISRAELI AIR RAIDS, LANDING 28 MAY

NC281603 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 May 81

[Excerpts] From 1500 to 1615 today, Israeli planes launched four air raids on Palestinian camps and positions in Ad-Damur and the suburbs of Beirut, (Ash-Shamal) and Al-Biqa'.

The air raid on Ad-Damur and other positions simultaneously began at 1500 today. It was followed by three other air raids, the last of which took place at 1615 and lasted 15 minutes.

One of the air raids over Ad-Damur lasted about 20 minutes, during which a Palestinian naval base was destroyed. Artillery emplacements and military fortifications were destroyed in Ad-Damur, Na'imah Heights, (Dahr Al-Mugharah) near As-Sa'qiyat and (Dumur 'Aqlin) near Ad-Dubbiyah.

Unconfirmed reports say there are SAM missiles and a number of Libyan soldiers in the Palestinian positions and fortifications in Ad-Damur area. However, it is not known whether these missiles were fired or used, in addition to the antiaircraft guns.

As a result of these four air raids, several people were killed or wounded. Eight ambulances were seen moving the wounded to the hospitals in Beirut. The air raids also caused extensive material damage.

These air raids were accompanied artillery shelling of Sidon [in southern Lebanon]. Several shells fell on the town, especially on the Riyad as-Sulh Boulevard. Several people were wounded, including (Muhammad 'Abdin) and (Nada Jaradah).

Clashes also erupted between the Syrian positions and the Lebanese Army in At-Tayyunah and Badaru [in Beirut]. The artillery shelling covered the residential quarters in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Galerie Sim'an. The crossing point in Galerie Sim'an was closed.

During the air raids, Beirut airport air control tower informed arriving civilian planes to delay their arrival. Air traffic was resumed at 1700.

Update Report

NC281753 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 May 81

[Excerpts] Israeli aircraft have carried out five raids on Ad-Damur and its suburbs since 1515 today. The Israeli planes also carried out a raid on Al-'Urqub in the western sector of southern Lebanon at 1715. The latest raid was carried out on the Ad-Damur area and nearby suburbs at 1805. The planes bombarded Palestinian positions and military fortifications.

The raids were accompanied by Israeli warplanes that overflew Beirut, northern Lebanon and Al-Biqa' as well as two warships that patrolled the area between the southern coast and the hit targets.

About 50 military aircraft participated in the bombardment, including some that overflew the area for reconnaissance and protection.

Initial reports say that approximately 80 people were killed or injured, including four Libyans killed. A number of Libyan soldiers were subjected to the bombardment.

Reports from southern Lebanon say that Palestinian positions in An-Nabatiyah traded artillery shelling with border strip artillery, covering Marj 'Uyun and Al-Qulay'ah on the one hand and An-Nabatiyah, Al-'Ayshiyah, Al-Jarmaq and Ad-Dimashqiyah on the other.

Commando Landing

NC290533 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 May 81

[Excerpts] At about midnight yesterday, an Israeli commando unit landed in Ad-Dawhah area, south of the capital between the family beach and An-Na'imah, and destroyed a number of Palestinian vehicles including one belonging to the Syrian deterrent forces. The car was burned and one person who was inside it was killed and another was wounded.

The Israeli force paved the way for the landing operation by a sea bombardment. The landing operation came in the wake of the air raids on Palestinian positions in Ad-Damur, the An-Na'imah hills, (Dahr al-Magharah) and (Al-Barjimiyah) and their environs.

According to reports last night, Israeli concentrations were seen along the southern border. The correspondents in the area spoke about the exchange of artillery fire between the Palestinian and border strip positions. Some sources said that 30 Israeli tanks headed last night for Metulla to another area on the Lebanese border.

BEIRUT REPORTS SAM'S FIRED AT ISRAELI PLANES

NC281657 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Squadrons of Israeli aircraft have carried out several raids on areas in Ad-Damur, Na'Imat and their surroundings aimed at hills and residential areas.

The bombardment resulted in heavy damage and about 25 people, mostly civilians, were killed or injured. The raiding planes were faced with heavy antiaircraft fire, including SAM-9 missiles, which are shoulder-fired missiles. The Israeli planes, however, managed to evade the fire by use of thermal balloons. The bombardment [qasf] was renewed at 1706. The Israeli planes also raided Al-'Urqub at 1715.

ISRAELI COMPANIES REPORTEDLY ENTER HADDAD ENCLAVE

NC281912 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] According to reports from southern Lebanon, Israeli warplanes carried out intensive overflights over Al-'Urqub and An-Nabatiyah this evening. Two Israeli Army companies have moved from Metulla to Al-Qulay'ah [controlled by Maj Sa'd Haddad].

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN DENIES LIBYANS IN LEBANON

JN290856 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0825 GMT 29 May 81

[Text] Beirut, 29 May (SANA)--An official Palestinian spokesman has denied that Libyans are helping the Palestinians in Lebanon. He also denied that [word indistinct] have been supplied with SAM-9 anti-aircraft missiles. Mahmud (Labdah), spokesman for Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, said that the statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin are merely [words indistinct] and false accusations. (Labdah) asserted that there are no Libyans in southern Lebanon, only Palestinians and Lebanese. He also stressed that the Palestinians have not received SAM-9 missiles from Libya or any other country.

KHADDAM MEETS BUTRUS IN SHTAWRAH, RETURNS 28 MAY

Khaddam Comments

JN282002 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] A meeting was held in Shtawrah at 1200 today between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese foreign minister. The meeting ended at 1400. At the conclusion of the meeting and before departing for Damascus, Khaddam answered the questions of journalists. The first question was on the nature of the talks with Butrus. Khaddam said: [Begin videotape] As was pointed out by brother Fu'ad Butrus, we discussed the issues related to the quadripartite committee. We reviewed the general situation in Lebanon and the various developments, and we agreed to meet our brothers the committee members to fix a close date for the meeting. The results of our discussions will be submitted to Presidents Sarkis and Al-Asad. As I have said, we discussed the problems connected with the quadripartite committee. The meeting was agreed upon in Tunis.

[Question] Do you think that there were certain positive aspects of the meeting?

[Answer] Naturally I am always optimistic despite the presence of many negative factors which tend to increase the trouble in the Lebananese situation, such as the Israeli factor and the Israeli interventions. However, this must not prevent us from exerting all possible efforts in order to restore peace and security to Lebanon and end the Israeli influence in Lebanon.

[Question] What are your views on the Soviet stand on convening an international conference on the Middle East, and Reagan's rejection of this stand?

[Answer] We have already expressed our welcome to the Soviet initiative to establish a just and permanent peace in the region.

[Question] What are your views on the Gulf Cooperation Council proposals and what effects might these proposals have on Syria and Lebanon?

[Answer] We have seen the statement by the Gulf summit conference and we in Syria welcomed this statement.

[Question] What is the Syrian stand toward Sudan following the recalling by Khartoum of the Sudanese ambassador in Damascus and the Sudanese Embassy personnel in (?Beirut)?

[Answer] We have issued a statement on the Sudanese stand and on the involvement of the Sudanese Government with the Egyptian regime. I believe that all the Arab states must take decisive measures against this Sudanese regime, which has deviated from Arab unanimity and resolutions as did As-Sadat.

[Question] Do you believe that this is one of the negative aspects of the Arab position?

[Answer] We should not blame the Arab position because of the deviation of others. The national stand is not in need of a sanction from this or that side. Whoever is committed to a rational and patriotic stand will carry out his duty. Whoever betrays such a stand cannot be justified by anyone else's shortcomings or errors.

[Question] There are expectations of an Israeli invasion of south Lebanon. This situation calls for a swift and unified Arab stand on Lebanon.

[Answer] The Tunis conference affirmed that with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict there is a unified Arab stand and that there are no different Arab stands. We are certain that the Arab nation will stand united if Israel is involved in making the military situation explode in Lebanon or outside Lebanon. Concerning the acceleration of the Lebanese efforts, we say that this should not be connected with the Israeli factor. If we find that we should accelerate efforts to realize Lebanese national detente and to end the plight of the Lebanese, we do not do that because of Israel or because of Israel's presence and intervention, but for the sake of the Lebanese citizen and the Lebanese ordeal. Naturally, ending the Israeli factor is a major outlet for ending the Lebanese ordeal.

[Question] Then you may assure the Lebanese people that a solution for the Lebanese crisis is close?

[Answer] All I can say is that we will exert all our efforts to reach a solution for the Lebanese crisis. This depends not on us, but on the Lebanese parties and on their ability to make national decisions and to be with Lebanese unity and against the enemy and war; with the legitimacy and not against it. The Lebanese sides that can take such a stand are able to positively help achieve the national detente and end the Lebanese crisis.

[Question] Will you be making any more visits to Ba'abda Palace in the near future?

[Answer] If the president finds that my presence or that of any Syrian official in Ba'abda is useful that Syrian official will be at his disposal. [end videotape]

28 May Return

JN282039 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1955 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Damascus, 28 May (SANA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Damascus this afternoon from the Lebanese town of Shtawrah after holding official talks with Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

DAILY SEES SIGNS OF PLANNED ISRAELI AGGRESSION

JN290658 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Preparations for the Zionist Aggression Enter a New Stage," the ATH-THAWRAH editorial says: The Zionist aggressive escalation in southern Lebanon and the Phalangists' exploding of the security situation in Beirut affirm that the Zionist-Phalangist alliance is still seeking to strike at stability and impede any trend to achieve Lebanese national accord. Such escalation is taking place at a time when proecdures are being adopted to implement the resolutions of the Arab foreign ministers conference--that is, reviving the Arab followup committee and implementing a series of practical steps to help Lebanon emerge from its crisis.

It is neither strange nor coincidental that the Zionist aggressive steps should take place against the Lebanese civilians and Palestinian camps at a time when Egyptian ruler Anwar as-Sadat is preparing to meet with terrorist Menahem Begin--whose hands are covered with the blood of our Arab people--in order to coordinate the roles of the Camp David partners for the coming stage within the framework of the U.S.-Zionist strategy against the Arab nation and its steadfast elements led by Syria.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: Anyone following the new developments cannot but notice that the Zionist enemy's intensification of its aggressive preparations--manifested by its dispatching reconnaissance planes, increasing military concentrations, calling up the reservists and attempting to violate the sanctity of Syrian airspace--is taking place a time when the Zionist-imperialist circles and their organs are directing their campaigns against Syria and accusing it of intransigence just because it refuses to budge one inch from its principled and firm stand: to confront aggression and to remain determined to defend the Arab nation's right, dignity and honor. This stand is based on such foundations as a background of struggle, the Arab masses and the firm support of all the world's free and progressive elements. When it declared its decision to prevent Lebanon's partition and Zionization and its firm determination to confront Israel and its allies and continue supporting and protecting the Palestinian issue, revolution and masses, Syria was aware that such a stand would subject it to plots and pressures. Syria also took into consideration the possibility of a Zionist aggression backed by U.S. imperialism.

ATH-THAWRAH stated that the recent developments in the region behoove the Arab nation and its masses throughout the big homeland to measure up to the challenge and exercise the utmost caution and alertness, since the Camp David partners are trying at all costs to break out of the stalemate they found themselves in as a result of the Syrian stand and the Arab masses' support for such a stand. Begin's cries of war and the suspect meetings being held within the framework of the plot both show that an aggression is being planned even though an aggressive adventure would jeopardize the peace and security of both the region and world.

Proceeding from our principled and firm stand, we in Syria shall continue the march of dignity. We shall continue to honorably shoulder our struggle responsibilities, since we are aware that at the current stage, such a stand constitutes the only definite protection for the Arab existence. Such is our fate. Our fate is to be the vanguards of a nation confronting aggression--vanguards warding off threats to this nation, safeguarding its dignity and future and preparing to liberate its territory and wrest its usurped rights.

TISHRIN SAYS ISRAELI AGGRESSION MUST BE STOPPED

JN290802 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" column and under the headline "Lebanon's Security and Israel's Security," the paper TISHRIN says: The U.S.-backed Israeli policy is responsible not only for the dangers of war exploding in the Middle East but also for the situation in Lebanon, which is arousing apprehension.

To create a suitable atmosphere in which to discuss the establishment of a just, comprehensive and lasting Middle East peace, the aggressive, bellicose and expansionist policy adopted by Israel against the Arabs, with U.S. support, arms, encouragement and protection, must be finally stopped. To create the circumstances that will help to achieve national accord, security and stability, to bolster the legitimate Lebanese authorities' control over all Lebanese territory and to assist the Lebanese state in accomplishing its duties and exercise its powers, the Israeli intervention in Lebanon's affairs must be stopped. Furthermore, it is necessary to cut off the hand that is playing around with security, instigating people so as to prevent the establishment of accord and instilling into some minds the delusion that an Israeli exploitation of the Lebanese arena might be in their interest. In fact, every form of cooperation with or any propensity to cooperate with Israel in the Lebanese arena should be stopped.

It would be in both Lebanon's interest and the Arab nation's pan-Arab interest to reject any Israeli mandate over any part of Lebanese territory and the Israeli security theory, which calls for the violating Lebanon's territory, waters and airspace.

It would also be in both Lebanon's and the Arab nation's interest to consider the Lebanese national accord as the premise from which to proceed in order to restore Lebanon's health and security, achieve its stability and the unity of its territories and institutions and allow it to play its role in the Arab arena in its capacity as an Arab state committed to the pan-Arab issue and as a radiant Arab face working to achieve just and lasting peace in the region.

TISHRIN SAYS U.S., ISRAELI SUCCESS BLOCKED

JN290823 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "What Was Seized By Force," the paper TISHRIN says: The Zionists cannot bear to watch the persistent efforts in the Arab arena to close the breaches that have always characterized the Arab-Zionist conflict and led to the impression of a triumphant Zionist power, particularly since such impression would not have been created had it not been for the breaches within the Arab ranks. Their fury now over the presence of the Syrian missiles is similar to their fury when the Syrian-Egyptian arms deal was concluded in 1955. Such fury has been aroused because the Zionists' security and even their peace depends on the minimum level of the Arabs' armament and even the Arabs' disarmament. This security also depends on keeping the Arabs out of a social framework that would enable them effectively to organize their potentials.

The paper concludes: What was seized by force can only be returned by force. This slogan, raised by 'Abd an-Nasir after 1967, was and is still bound. Al-Asad's Syria has now made headway along the path that threatens the Zionists' control over the region. This is why they are confused; this is why Habib is coming and going; this is why there are fabrications--which the Zionists, Americans and their followers excel in--about achieving success. In fact, all paths to such a success have been blocked as a result of the firm national will embodied by Syria.

COMMENTARY VIEWS POLICIES IN SYRIA-ISRAEL DISPUTE

JN281434 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. envoy cut short his mission and returned to his country yesterday to consult with President Reagan after remaining in the region for 3 weeks. Despite the fact that U.S. circles report that the present situation constitutes a truce, the hope expressed by the U.S. envoy that war would not break out during his absence, Begin's claims about war preparations in Syria and the expectations of enemy chief of the war staff, Eytan, of the possibility of a war of attrition with Syria give one a picture of Israel's plans for aggression, in spite of the political cover provided by the United States to terrorist Begin, who has not ceased for a moment to issue threats, declare conditions and announce the dangers to which Israeli security is subject after the provocation of the Syrian missile crisis in Lebanon.

In his press interview with U.S. television, President al-Asad said that the missiles are defensive and that Syria has the right to defend its common security with Lebanon if Israel contemplates aggression. This clear stand, that is, Syria's right to defend itself and Lebanon against any new aggressive Israeli war, has resulted in the emergence of several facts which will determine the course of events in the foreseeable future.

The wager of the Camp David quarters that the Arab situation, on the eve of the provocation of the missile crisis, was ripe for launching a large-scale attack against Lebanon and Syria was lost due to Syria's determination to respond to any Israeli attack very strongly. The firm Syrian stand of rejecting all forms of threat, blackmail and pressure led the Arabs to support Syria and warn the United States against continuing to support Israel, because this U.S. support gives the rulers in Tel Aviv the green light to continue their aggressive, expansionist policy against the Arabs.

So U.S. diplomacy found itself stuck during the past 3 weeks because the crisis of which it spoke is a result of Israeli designs and repeated attacks on Lebanon, not of Syrian missiles. This clearly means that solving the crisis requires curbing the aggressive, expansionist Israeli policy against Lebanon and the Arabs, and does not mean suggesting ideas and plans which serve Israeli plans on the pretext of Israeli security, which Tel Aviv has translated ever since its establishment into expansionism, aggression and service to U.S. and imperialist interests in the region. In light of the above, any diplomatic efforts cannot be in the least effective if they do not aim at curbing the aggressive policy of Israel. Moreover, negligence of this basic issue will result in creating a political cover for any Israeli attack which Begin threatens to carry out.

We have no need to reassert that Syria's defense of itself, Lebanon and Arab security in general is an issue that is not subject to argument and bargaining. If Begin is planning any attack, Syria will strongly respond, because it is defending the struggle course and the Arab future against the Camp David quarters. This response of Syria's is a legitimate right of any people which repulses aggression directed against it and defends its independence and sovereignty.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES ARAB ORGANIZATIONS DELEGATION

JN281753 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] At 1330 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the joint delegation of the permanent secretariat of the Arab People's Conference and that of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, which is composed of Hamid Jallud, Comrade 'Izz ad-Din Nasir, Fathi ar-Raghib, Hasib 'Abd al-Jawwad, 'Umar ash-Shihabi, Sa'id Mas'ud and Muhammad Mustafa Qatfah. The joint delegation briefed the president on its tour of the capitals of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and its meetings with the heads of the front states and the political and popular organizations in these states. These meetings revolved around the requirements of the current stage, such as the availability of moral and material support for Syria's steadfast stand in facing the Israeli threats supported by imperialism, and also backing for the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. The president reviewed with the delegation the situation in the region in light of the positive results of the delegation's tour.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANON, BAHRAIN GROUPS' SUPPORT

JN281758 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable of greetings and support from the provisional command of the Lebanese national confrontation party. The cable said: Sincerity, wisdom and valor are the predominent traits of your stands. These traits have been the cause for the defeat of the imperialist and Zionist plots against this nation to impose humiliation and surrender on the Arabs, whether through Camp David, the stirring up of the Lebanese situation or supporting Israel. The cable added: Israel's arrogance and so-called superiority and air supremacy have been smashed on your rock-firm valor and determination. The dismemberment of Lebanon and the nation has been avoided thanks to your pan-Arab vision, your wise and civilized dealings and your permanent preservation of legitimacy and the patriotic Lebanese masses. Protection of the resistance has been assured by your continued cohesion with it.

The president also received a letter of support from the Executive Committee of the Popular Front in Bahrain [Al-Jabhah ash-Sha'biyah fi al-Bahrain] in which the front affirmed that the Bahraini people and national forces stand unhesitatingly by the side of Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement in the fateful confrontation between the Arab nation on the one hand and imperialism and Zionism on the other. The cable [as heard] said: Syria's rejection of the pressures directed against it, its continued confrontation with the Israeli belligerency and its determination to protect Arab rights and to mobilize and revolutionize Arab masses for the confrontation of struggle will constitute a new phase in the Arab struggle and will play a role in the awakening of Arab forces.

AIR FORCE ATTACKS SAM SITE SOUTH OF BEIRUT

IDF Spokesman's Announcement

TA281512 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] A few minutes ago the IDF spokesman issued an announcement about the attack of the air force planes. This is what the spokesman reported: SAM-9 missiles, operated by a Libyan force and defending the terrorist deployment in the area south of Beirut, the Ad-Damur area, were fired at air force planes that were on a reconnaissance flight in Lebanese airspace. In response, our planes attacked the missile deployment and a terrorist base and destroyed them. Our pilots reported precise hits at the targets. Syrian Air Force planes did not try to intervene during the entire time taken by the attack. All our planes returned to their bases safely. That was the IDF spokesman's announcement issued a few minutes ago.

'Terrorist Base' Described

TA281629 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 May 81

[Excerpt] Our correspondent comments that the terrorist camps in Ad-Damur are about 5 km south of Beirut. The terrorist base in which the SAM-9 launchers are being operated by the Libyans belongs to the organization called the popular front, the general staff headquarters--the organization of Ahmad Jibril. [Ahmad Jibril heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command]. The area attacked is outside the residential area and is between the main highway and the sea. Our correspondent recalls that at the beginning of last month Libya sent the terrorists in Lebanon the SAM-9 missiles, as well as antiaircraft cannons, and they have been deployed in the Ad-Damur region.

The Voice of Lebanon radio station reported in its announcement about the air force attack that the base hit was a terrorist naval base. The broadcast said that all the roads between Ad-Damur and Beirut and Sidon had been closed to traffic and a general state of alert had been declared in all the terrorist installations in Lebanon. This is the first attack on Lebanon by air force planes since the missile crisis began.

Our correspondent on Arab affairs reports that over the last few months Libyan involvement in Lebanon has greatly increased. At the beginning of last month it supplied the terrorists with SAM-9 missiles and antiaircraft cannons. The Libyan missile deployment is south of Beirut, in the Ad-Damur region, as we mentioned. The terrorists' missiles are being operated by Libyans. They also command them. The Libyan force includes several hundred soldiers and the dispatch of a Libyan force to Lebanon was agreed upon during a visit to Syria by the Libyan chief of staff and its foreign minister. The Libyan force went to Lebanon via Syria. Libya has also promised to put its arsenals at the disposal of Syria--for the terrorists. The long-range cannons brought into Lebanon from Syria last week were Libyan supplies for the terrorists.

Four Launchers Destroyed

TA281818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that in its attack on Lebanon today the air force destroyed four mobile SAM-9 missile launchers containing a total of 16 missiles. Each such launcher is armored and holds four missiles. Several armored personnel carriers, antiaircraft artillery, a bunker and several of the terrorists' vehicles were also destroyed. Our correspondent points out that the SAM-9 missiles were developed and manufactured in the Soviet Union in 1974. These are missiles which home in on the heat of the plane's engine. Such a missile is about 1.70 meters long and its maximum range of activity reaches a height of 4.5 km.

Our military correspondent adds that in the region of Ad-Damur, south of Beirut, there are about 500 terrorists who are members of various organizations, mainly the organizations of Ahmad Jibril and Nayif Hawatimah. The Ad-Damur plain serves as a rear guard deployment area for the terrorists and in it there are training bases, command headquarters and logistic bases. For the moment it is not known how many terrorists were hit today in our planes' attack. Foreign correspondents have reported ambulances that were seen moving toward the area.

4 Libyans Reportedly Killed

TA281913 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 May 81

[Excerpt] The Christian radio stations in Beirut reported this evening that 80 terrorists were killed in the Israeli Air Force bombing. They also reported that four Libyan soldiers were killed in the bombing in the Ad-Damur area. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the broadcast said that a Libyan SAM-9 missile base, two terrorist naval bases and a garage for PLO vehicles were destroyed in the Ad-Damur region. The Christians' broadcast also reported that about 50 Israeli fighter planes flew into Lebanese airspace this afternoon but that the Syrians did not fire missiles at them, nor did they even alert planes to intercept them.

BEGIN INTERVIEWED ON IDF ATTACK, AS-SADAT MEETING

TA281650 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1615 GMT 28 May 81

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin interviewed by IDF political correspondent Gad Becker in the prime minister's office on the evening of 28 May--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, let us first, perhaps, turn to today's incident in Lebanese airspace, the missile shots at our planes and the air force action immediately afterward. What conclusions should we draw from this event?

[Answer] There are Libyans in Lebanon. Nobody knows why they came, what they are doing there. Their intention, as far as we know, is to defend the terrorists against our planes, which go either to photograph or to attack the terrorists, as we must do so that those murderers will not kill our children. Well, they went to Lebanon. They have no right to be in Lebanon. Let them go back to Libya. If they operated their missiles, then they got what was coming to them--to be destroyed--and so they were destroyed today.

[Question] Could you perhaps give us some details about the event itself, what exactly happened this time?

[Answer] It was simple. They acted. We, of course, have always been ready in the event of the need to act. We acted with great efficiency, as our air force knows how to act.

[Question] Would you say that we should draw conclusions from this incident which involved our air force planes with SAM missiles? Are there any conclusions to be drawn from this about the other missiles, the Syrian missiles positioned in Lebanon?

[Answer] Everything in due time. As the proverb goes, kill a Turk and rest. For the moment, we have destroyed the Libyan missiles. After this, we will see.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, with regard to your meeting with the president of Egypt next week, why, in fact, did you propose to the Egyptian president that you should meet again?

[Answer] Look at the problems now current: that of Lebanon. The president of Egypt wrote me a letter. I replied to it.

The letters were very friendly, but can you get all the problems onto three pages? It is clear that, on this matter, a personal talk is required. There is the problem of the terrorist organization which is receiving large amounts of Soviet weapons, of all types. I think that this interests both countries, both Egypt and Israel, there is the problem of the spread of communism in our area. That is certainly in the interests of Egypt and Israel to stop that spread.

We have other problems, international ones, regional ones, bilateral ones. I thought that right now it is very important for us to meet and exchange views. We can sit down freely, without any time limitation, for several hours, in the sun, and clarify them. I asked my friend the minister of agriculture, who went for a visit to Egypt, as you know at the invitation of his counterpart, the Egyptian minister of agriculture, that when he met with President as-Sadat to put my proposal to him. I would like to see him, if possible, at the beginning of June, and I would phone him at the end of the week--I wrote this in my reply, too--or at the beginning of next week, to set the details. This morning I phoned him. The conversation was very friendly. We called each other by our first names all the time, and, of course, there was an exchange of greetings to our wives, to our families and so on, and we decided, in accordance with the diary I looked at--there is a special Knesset session this coming Wednesday [3 June] when I will have to reply to the Alignment's disgraceful proposal and, believe me, I will reply. So Friday, of course, is President as-Sadat's rest day, so I chose Thursday. President as-Sadat accepted this willingly. After that, as is the custom in international phone calls, we were cut off.

President as-Sadat contacted me again and said, well, what have we decided, Thursday, 4 June, and I said yes, exactly. So, since he already called me again, I said, listen, my friend Anwar, what are we doing, working in an underground? We are going to meet. We represent two countries. Let us publish this. You will publish an announcement in Egypt, and I will publish an announcement in Jerusalem. He agreed. He agreed without any hesitation, and so, immediately after that, you got the announcement, you were the first to broadcast it. In fact, you scooped it from Qol Yisra'el, because Qol Yisra'el learned of it at 1300.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, can one expect certain political achievements from your meeting with President as-Sadat?

[Answer] It all depends on the course of the talk. It is clear that we may reach some agreement. I wrote to him in my letter, by the way, that I think the time is ripe now to clarify things and perhaps also reach decisions. What decisions? I cannot say today. This first depends on the president. Second this depends on the positions of each of us. If we can reach conclusions, I will certainly be happy. Otherwise, [word indistinct] the talk.

[Question] Will you suggest to President as-Sadat to immediately resume the autonomy talks?

[Answer] No I will not even mention this. At the time President as-Sadat said that in connection to the resumption of autonomy negotiations, he wants to wait until after the elections in Israel. I noted this to myself. Nothing will happen if we renew the talks after 5 weeks. If he, on his own initiative, proposes the renewal of the talks--please, however, I do not want to initiate since he firmly announced that he will not resume the negotiations before the elections. I do not think I should ask for their resumption.

[Question] Is there room for discussion on gradual withdrawal from the remaining part of the Sinai?

[Answer] This has not existed, nor will it exist. The date is 26 April 1982. This is a condition in the peace treaty. We will fulfill it. However, the basic condition is that at least 5 to 6 weeks before this date, the multinational force will be set up and operated.

We said this both to the Americans and to the Egyptians and they understood this. It is for this reason that we conduct the negotiations on the multinational force. I participated in the negotiations indirectly, namely, I hold talks with our delegation.

[Question] Do you forsee an agreement on this issue in your meeting with As-Sadat?

[Answer] I do not think I will enter any details in my talk with him. However, it may be that a problem will arise in connection with the peace treaty.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, the opposition's leader today charged that this move, the meeting with President as-Sadat, is part of your election campaign?

[Answer] Well, I would like to disregard the accusers altogether. I would like to say in a purely theoretical manner that anybody who confuses such an important talk in such special days--when we are faced with the Lebanese problem, with the problem of terrorists, with the problem of expanding communism, Soviet imperialism and so on and so forth--he is either a wicked person or a stupid person or a cruel stupid man or an ignorant wicked person, that's all.

[Question] The link between this date and the upcoming elections date--is it incidental then?

[Answer] How guilty am I that the Lebanese problem has suddenly erupted with all its accompanying elements--the introduction of the missiles and Syrian pretense that they will under no circumstances remove the missiles and they are prepared for war. Am I to blame that this happened 2 weeks ago? When this happened and President as-Sadat, on his initiative, addresses me, I have to answer him. I want to clarify the problem with him. I would like to tell him details that unlike me he is surely unaware of yet. What connection does this have with the elections?

[Question] How do you treat, sir, the meeting now mentioned between opposition leader Peres and President as-Sadat?

[Answer] In my opinion, if President as-Sadat invites Mr Peres and if Mr Peres invites himself to see President as-Sadat--well, how is this said in Arabic: etfadal [he's welcome]. Please, what is there in it? There is no harm here. I still hope that Mr Peres also knows and understands that the State of Israel is represented by the prime minister.

IDF ANNOUNCES COMMANDO OPERATION IN LEBANON

TA290651 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0644 GMT 29 May 81

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] A news item that has reached us just now: Replying to a question by our military correspondent, the IDF spokesman confirmed that an IDF force had operated last night north of Sidon. In the course of the operation the force encountered a terrorist vehicle and destroyed it. Our forces sustained no casualties.

EXCHANGES OF FIRE REPORTED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA281525 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Over the last 2 hours there have been exchanges of fire between the terrorists and Maj Sa'd Haddad's forces in the eastern enclave of southern Lebanon. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that the militiamen are shelling the terrorist positions in Al-Jarmaq and (Ash-Shaykha). The terrorists are firing from the Beaufort Castle at the hamlet of Marj 'Uyun.

SYRIAN FORCES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS SAID TO BE ON ALERT

TA281553 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] A high state of alert exists and preparations for a state of war are being made among the Syrian forces on the Golan Heights. The Syrians have seized at least one position that was empty to date and have conducted a series of repairs in fortifications and obstacles. There are two Syrian divisions along the front line of deployment on the Golan Heights and at a distance of a few hours drive away there are two additional divisions ready for movement. Our military correspondent Sha'ul Stav reports again:

[Begin recording] There are two Syrian divisions on the Golan Heights now. They make up the first line of deployment. At a distance of a few hours drive by tanks or armored personnel carriers, one finds the second Syrian line of deployment, and there, too, there are two divisions. This is the permanent order of force stationed in the area for the last several years. These forces are on a high state of alert now and are able speedily to move into a state of war.

Over the last few days the Syrians have completed their preparations in this sphere--logistic layouts have been carried out and reserves have been called up for service. At the same time, in the civilian sphere, the Syrian fuel economy, the civil defense system and the hospitals have been prepared.

The major reinforcement of units has been implemented on the Lebanese front. A Syrian armored brigade has been advanced to the border area and infrastructure has been prepared inside Lebanon for the absorption of large artillery forces. However, there is still a high state of alert among Syrian forces on the Golan Heights as well. One position that was empty was seized by Syrian forces and they repaired fortifications and obstacles. It has also been reported that lately Syrian soldiers have seized observation posts inside the town of Al-Qunaytirah. It should be emphasized that the Syrian forces on the Golan Heights are on a high state of alert but there is as yet no deployment of antiaircraft and artillery systems on the frontline. Such a deployment is characteristic of the Syrian Army's war deployment. These forces and the antiaircraft and artillery forces are located on the second line and can be transferred to the front line within a few hours. Therefore, Israel's early-warning space in this sector is very limited. [end recording]

TZIPORI NOTES INCREASED ALERT AMONG ARAB FORCES

TA281545 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 28 May 81

[Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori interviewed by IDF radio correspondent 'Arad Nir--recorded]

[Text] [Tzipori] There is no doubt that the Arab alertness has increased, but, along this line, I must mention what is happening with our forces: Our forces have prepared to provide the correct response and they can provide the required response, if it is required, to every one of the circumstances as they may be created in the field.

[Question] How long, in your opinion, will we be able to wait while the Syrians are continuing their state of alert?

[Answer] In my opinion , as long as there is a chance--and this is the view of the Government of Israel--of any compromise in political ways, we must give priority to it.

PERES TO MEET WITH AS-SADAT ON 7 JUN IN AL-'ARISH

TA282158 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2140 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Our political correspondent has learned that the meeting between MK Shim'on Peres and President as-Sadat will take place on Sunday, 7 June, in Al-'Arish. The meeting was concluded this evening in a telephone conversation between the Egyptian minister of state for presidential affairs and Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres.

PERES INTERVIEWED ON BEGIN-AS-ASDAT MEETING

TA282002 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 May 81

[Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres interviewed by Elimelekh Ram--live in Tel Aviv studio]

[Text] [Question] Mr Peres, are you going to ask the prime minister to postpone his meeting with President as-Sadat until after the elections?

[Answer] No. I welcome any meeting between Egypt and Israel, although if I were prime minister, I would consider the genuine reality, that is, that this is being done 34 days before the elections date. And Mr Begin himself has not recalled that it was not Mr Rabin who invited himself to Mr Carter, but it was Mr Carter who invited Mr Rabin. Here, the prime minister invited himself to President as-Sadat.

[Question] Would you see this meeting as intervention by President as-Sadat in Israel's domestic affairs?

[Answer] I assume that President as-Sadat is a very courteous man and when he is asked for a meeting why should he refuse? Although he has been quite cautious, up to now, not to intervene in our electoral affairs. I must also say that we, too, have behaved cautiously. Justice should also be seen, not only done. It is true that Mr as-Sadat invited me to visit Egypt. I refrained from doing so in order, really, to make a distinction between elections and talks.

[Question] And now you intend to meet with President as-Sadat, even before the elections?

[Answer] I assume so. I will accept the invitation I have in my possession, since it is impossible to ignore the fact that this is being done in the reality of elections, with the implications, and you know that it is impossible to discuss things only in accordance with intentions--one must discuss in accordance with results.

[Question] I would like to understand something. Does this mean that if the Begin-As-Sadat meeting was not going to be held until next week, you would postpone your meeting with As-Sadat until after the elections?

[Answer] Definitely. I think that Mr Begin would also be better advised to wait until after the elections. He gave this advice to others, but if he does [hold the meeting], and I welcome the meeting. I also see a possibility and a need for us, too, to meet.

[Question] Mr Peres, don't you think that the missile crisis and the Soviet expansion attempts demand coordination, and most urgently, between Israel and Egypt?

[Answer] Let us make a distinction between the two issues. Soviet expansionism is not a matter of 2 or 3 weeks. It is my impression that the Soviets will remain in the Middle East even after 30 June, and it is not a matter of 1 more week, 1 less week. It has not begun today and I am also surprised that this issue has been introduced into the agenda at all. As for the missiles in Lebanon--I am really thinking aloud--tell me, is Egypt, at this time, really the most suitable country, publicly, with which to discuss this issue? There is even a little element of embarrassment in this matter, because, after all, Egypt is an Arab country. President as-Sadat has also said what his opinion is, both in a letter and in public, and I do not estimate that he will deviate from what he said in that letter.

[Question] From what you have said, I understand that you nevertheless think that the meeting is mainly intended for electoral needs. The prime minister said that anyone who imagines such a thing is evil, malicious and other such things.

[Answer] You know, that, too, is elections rhetoric. If the prime minister were to react a little more moderately, not with such enthusiasm, I would really be convinced, but these are names called at elections time. There is no point in pretending to be naive and saying, elections aside, as that rabbi said. Sabbath to the right, Sabbath to the left, he travels through the middle of the forest. This is as clear as the sun.

[Question] You know, before you came into the studio, somebody--actually not a political figure--said to me. You know, he said, the prime minister's meeting with the president of Egypt and the meeting by the Labor Party chairman with the president of Egypt, in fact, will both pass through the polls.

[Answer] To a certain extent, yes, because there is in this a little movement of the focal point from the weighty economic and social matters to some sort of more general political work, although I am sure that the voters will decide in accordance with far more basic matters.

[Question] And, finally, when you will meet with President as-Sadat?

[Answer] The date has not yet been set, but it will certainly be after the prime minister's meeting. I do not want to precede him. I do not want to interfere. Here, too, I permit myself to say that on the eve of elections in a democratic country, when it is unknown who will be elected to prime minister--after all, there are two candidates--Mr Begin is both the prime minister and a candidate. He said that I should not forget who is the prime minister. I ask him not to forget that he is also a candidate, not only the prime minister. So, in other cases, in a democratic country, generally, both the candidates go, but I have no intention of traveling with Mr Begin. He will go. I will go. Generally this is for an exchange of remarks. No decisions of the Lord knows what sort will be made, so he will speak, I will speak and we will return with our own impressions.

[Question] Mr Begin has enumerated the issues he will raise at the meeting with President as-Sadat. What are the issues that you will raise at the meeting with him?

[Answer] We will also make a general evaluation of the situation, as we always do. This time I want to again bring President as-Sadat our basic positions, so that they should be clear, that we reject a Palestinian state, that we will not conduct negotiations with the PLO, that we are prepared to keep the international commitments that this government took upon itself, as regards Gaza and autonomy. We will also express our view on the matter of the negotiations connected with missiles and Syria. We will do our best to stress what unifies and brings together the nation as far as the external world is concerned.

[Ram] Mr Peres, thank you very much.

[Peres] Thank you.

ADB OFFICIAL WARNS OF NEED FOR NON-AFRICAN CAPITAL

AB280738 Paris AFP in English 0713 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Freetown, 28 May (AFP)--Unless the African Development Bank's capital is opened up quickly to non-African countries, the bank will by the end of the year be unable to borrow, its deputy chairman Samuel Ogunleye warned here Wednesday. He was reporting to ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) whose annual summit opens in the Sierra Leone capital later today.

A bank spokesman said Mr. Ogunleye warned that a five-year action plan for 1982-1986 adopted by the bank's governors required a commitment of 4.24 billion dollars, which current resources could not cover. Only the injection of over 500 million dollars which would be brought in by the capital participation of non-African countries would enable the plan to go ahead, Mr. Ogunleye said. Without it, "the Bank's commitment capacity at the end of 1981 will only be 25 million dollars, and the bank's borrowing capacity will be zero percent," he forecast.

The spokesman said Sierra Leone's finance minister Sama Banya, as chairman of the ECOWAS ministerial council, made a plea to delegates to try and see what they can do to help the process. The bank's chairman is due here this week to brief outgoing Organization of African Unity (OAU) Chairman Siaka Stevens on the dilemma, the spokesman added.

Non-African capital participation was in fact agreed to by the council of governors in 1978 after what the spokesman recalled yesterday were acrimonious exchanges. Delegates were fearful that such a move might mean the African countries would lose control of the bank--their own since the bank was set up in 1963. But to become operative, the decision needs ratification by 75 percent of the votes of the 50 member countries, and so far there is only 70 percent support. Algeria, Libya and Nigeria, accounting together for 27.06 of votes, were holding out with some other countries, and thereby risked paralysing the bank's operations, the spokesman said.

He disclosed that France, West Germany, Japan, Sweden and Denmark had already made arrangements to join the bank's capital once the majority was attained, and the United States and Britain were making preparations. The objectives of the bank, based in the Ivory Coast capital, Abidjan, are to finance and promote African development.

ECOWAS SUMMIT CONVENES IN FREETOWN 28 MAY

Shagari Speech

AB281809 Freetown Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 28 May 81

[Speech by Nigerian President Shehu Shagari at the opening of the sixth summit of ECOWAS Freetown, Sierra Leone on 28 May 1981--live]

[Excerpts] The struggle for economic emancipation and independence is today as urgent and significant as the struggle for political independence which we embarked upon some 30 years ago. The political struggle has largely been won. We must now approach the economic aspects with equal zeal and determination. In this context, ECOWAS has a vital role to play, and we must not fail.

In the course of pursuing our objectives of economic integration, we must as individual countries make sacrifices in the belief that we in turn stand to benefit from the sacrifices of others. Unless we accept and cultivate this spirit of give and take at this initial stage of our coming together, we shall not succeed. This community has a vital role to play in the economic and social emancipation of the subregion and in setting the pace for an eventual continental economic integration. More often than not, the pressures to hold fast to what we have tend to undermine our efforts in this direction. This temptation must be resisted.

One of the issues I raised in my speech last year, Mr Chairman, was the necessity for all member states to ratify the protocol on the freedom and free movement of persons. I am delighted at the number of countries that have so far ratified the protocol. I wish to invite the others who have not done so to ratify the protocol as soon as possible in the interest and spirit of the community. I suggest that in spite of difficulties we should make a determined effort to implement the protocol quickly. Although the protocol has come into effect, there continue to be complaints of harassment and of impositions of strict entry and exit conditions by some member states beyond those provided for in the protocol. This calls for the need to keep our immigration departments informed of the existence and provisions of the protocol so as to avoid unpleasant incidents at our borders, particularly in respect of legitimate and bona fide migrants. Our experience in implementing the protocol has revealed that several of our citizens do not appreciate their duties and obligations to the member states to which they migrate. Some of them believe that free movement of persons involves movement without valid papers or taking refuge in one member state after performing undesirable activities in another member state. Several migrants also wish to accept the privilege offered by the protocol and not the obligations of responsible citizenship.

Our community continues to make steady progress, although this appears rather slow to some people. When it is realized that we are made up of 16 sovereign states, we should be impressed with the achievements we have made so far. Nineteen eighty-nine [has] already been approved as the terminal date for achieving a customs union within the community and we must work together toward this goal. Nineteen eighty-nine may look far away, but in the life of a nation this is a very short period. The number of issues referred to us for consideration at this meeting, clearly shows that, to keep to our timetable, the frequency of consultations among our experts will have to be increased.

Mr Chairman ours is an economic community, and not just a free-trade association. The foundations of the economic integration have been laid. It is in this connection that I should underline the importance of the issues now engaging the attention of the transport, telecommunications and energy commissions. It is necessary to facilitate greater interaction among our citizens. Apart from having a common transport convention, there is the need to give priority to interstate roads in our respective national development programs. Equally important is the need to revitalize our agriculture so that by 1986 the community will be self-sufficient in food production. I am happy to note some of the recommendations made by the various commissions in this area.

The energy situation is of much concern to my country and we will give priority to those programs aimed at exploring more sources of conventional energy as well as harnessing our solar energy potential. Particular attention must be given to hydroelectricity generation and research into biomass and solar energy to provide cheaper and more reliable sources of energy for the community. My government will soon set up an energy research institute which, we expect, will facilitate the achievement of our objectives in this area.

Mr Chairman, my dear colleagues, we're operating in such an international environment that we cannot but take account of events around us as well as developments in the international scene as a whole that may influence our own coexistence. The issues of Chad, Western Sahara, Namibia and South Africa are of great concern to all of us and urgent solutions are required. Namibia and South Africa must be free, and Nigeria will give everything that is possible within the limits of her resources towards achievement of this goal. The problems of Chad and Western Sahara will have to be resolved as early as possible in the interests of the people resident in the respective areas and the continent in general.

On the international economic scene, developments in the past 2 years have not given much room for comfort. Attempts to restructure the world economic order have met with several obstacles and we have been unable, as yet, to agree on the development strategy to adopt for this decade, which has already begun. The issues involved in the negotiations are clear. It is not just a question of aid or access to financial resources, but fundamental issues of change of the existing system of economic relations to make our coexistence with the rest of the world more equitable. Africa has identified its need and interest in this matter through the Lagos plan of action and participation in the second session of the UN devoted to the issue of global economic development strategy, and we will continue to strive, in collaboration with all of our other brothers in the Group of 77, to achieve our objective.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I should draw attention to the need for vigilance. Our destiny is in our hands and we must not trade it off for promises of temporary assistance. We have no alternative to the accelerated development of the West African subregion, other than collective actions under this [word indistinct]. Any nation that has any doubt about this, should reconsider its position. Nigeria is committed to the community, not particularly because of her own economic interests, but because of her commitment to Africa's economic emancipation. We must always reaffirm our commitment to this noble achievement. Mr Chairman, my dear colleagues, I sincerely hope that our present meeting will take us at least one step toward the achievement of our goal. Thank you very much.

Eyadema Speech

AB281555 Freetown Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 28 May 81

[Speech by Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema on the occasion of the sixth summit of ECOWAS in Freetown, on 28 May 1981--live]

[Excerpts] Your Excellencies, presidents and heads of governments; heads of delegations; honorable ministers; Mr Secretary General of the OAU; Mr Executive Secretary of ECOWAS; Mr Managing Director of ECOWAS fund for cooperation, compensation and development; Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The warm welcome which the people of Sierra Leone, their government and you personally have given us, once again bears testimony to your country's attachment to the African cause.

Your Excellencies, a year ago we met in Lome to make very important decisions, and here we are again in Freetown to take stock of those decisions. Indeed, after the initial stages of consultation and the establishment of the various structures of the institutions of the community, we must now take concrete steps to implement cooperation agreements as enshrined in the ECOWAS treaty. We decided among other things, to implement the provisions relating to the free movement of persons and goods, communications and to continue discussions between our respective countries with a view to strengthening peace within the community and to avoid destabilization and discord wherever they rear their ugly heads.

As far as the program of trade liberalization and the promotion of trade within the ECOWAS member states is concerned, I am happy to underscore the importance of eliminating all obstacles that might hinder the movement of persons which is a cornerstone for the development of trade among our states. We also looked into the issue of community citizenship, the definition and drawing up of a code for our traditional handicraft products, as well as a similar code for industrial products with the appropriate priority; the application of [words indistinct] and we stressed that the various national administrations and departments of immigration, customs, trade and industries should implement these decisions which are vital for the understanding of the specific problems facing us, and above all, are crowned by the political will which we have all expressed by agreeing to join together and pool our efforts to achieve an integrated development of our subregion.

In fact, we all know that our common venture of economic integration can only succeed if a climate of peace, unity and solidarity prevails in our subregion. If, therefore, we have decided to avoid any conflicts between our states by signing the nonaggression pact, we have duly taken note of the risks that our community will run when the agents of destabilization, the troublemakers and the enemies of our unity would come in to use everything in their power to try to divert our attention from our main goal, which should be development. It is to this end that we have decided to conclude this treaty of nonaggression and to sign the defense pact in order to defend the whole community against foreign powers who are inclined to come and plunder our natural resources in order to widen their zones of influence.

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, heads of governments and heads of delegations, ministers, secretary general of the OAU, Mr Executive Secretary of the ECOWAS and Mr Managing Director of the ECOWAS fund, Your Excellencies ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have noted with satisfaction the progress made so far by our community in the past 12 months. We have made very courageous decisions and we have now come to the phase of implementation, and we must also be prepared to make more decisions which are equally important. The decisions on the liberalization and promotion of trade among member states should be fully applied at the level of the respective national governments. We are indeed very proud that now ECOWAS is being looked upon as a model for integrated development and it is incumbent upon us that we make further efforts towards this goal. We should therefore be aware for the need for unity.

Doe on Free Movement Protocol

AB282041 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 28 May 81

[Excerpt] At the sixth summit conference of ECOWAS heads of state now convening in Freetown, Sierra Leone, the Liberian leader, M Sgt Samuel Kanyon Doe, has made a forceful declaration that Liberia was in no way prepared to honor the protocol on free movement of citizens of ECOWAS member states into Liberia. Sergeant Doe said Liberia's position not to implement this protocol of free movement of ECOWAS citizens into its territory was purely from a security reason.

Addressing delegates at the opening session of the ECOWAS summit in Freetown today, Sergeant Doe called on other member states in the Western community to treat Liberia as equal partner in every respect. He also called for a strong defense agreement within ECOWAS and stressed the need for non-interference in the internal affairs of member states. Sergeant Doe took the podium after the Nigerian leader, Shehu Shagari, one of the 10 ECOWAS African heads of state attending thk Freetown summit. The Nigerian leader also spoke against harassment and the imposition of state exit and entry conditions by some member states of ECOWAS and stressed respect for the legitimate territorial rights of member countries.

CAMEROON

AHIDJO BRIEFS MINISTERS ON NIGERIA, GABON TIES

AB281135 Paris AFP in English 0948 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Yaounde, Cameroon, 28 May (AFP)--The May 16 border clash between Cameroonian and Nigerian forces in the oil-rich Rio del Rey River region took place in Cameroonian territory, President Ahmadou Ahidjo charged here. At the same time, after confirming the facts, and in the light of their unfortunate result, Cameroon had sent its regrets and condolences to the Nigerian Government and the families of the five Nigerian victims, he added.

Besides the Nigerian dead, the clash left a number of wounded among Cameroonian forces.

Nigeria, for its part, has said the clash occurred inside Nigerian territory and has requested a full apology, compensation for the families of the five dead, and punishment for the killers.

Nigerian President Shehu Shagari also said in a note to Mr Ahidjo on Monday that an apology from the Cameroonian president did not cover all the grounds listed by Nigeria.

Mr Ahidjo, briefing ministers yesterday on the incident with Nigeria as well as a dispute earlier this week with Cameroon's southern neighbor Gabon, said his government was committed to good relations with neighbors, and friendship and cooperation between states. Disputes should be settled peacefully, he said.

Mr Ahidjo deplored the deterioration in relations between Cameroonian and Gabonese nationals following a football match between the two countries in Cameroon's second city, Douala, on May 20.

About 4,000 of the estimated 30,000 expatriate Cameroonians in Gabon have been airlifted home this week following post-match clashes in the Gabonese capital, Libreville, and other towns in which two Gabonese died. A similar number are still waiting to be flown out of Gabon aboard Cameroonian and French transport aircraft used in the airlift. The president said the air bridge was set up in reply to repeated requests by members of the Cameroonian community (in Gabon) who felt seriously threatened.

The community clashes following publication by the Gabonese newspaper L'UNION of a photo of the Douala match showing seven Gabonese players lying on the ground, apparently unconscious.

The Cameroonian version is that the players lay down and refused to continue the game when they realised they had lost.

CONGO

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CAPE VERDE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

AB230831 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 22 May 81

[Communique issued in Brazzaville on 22 May at the end of Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira's visit to Congo--read by Congolese Foreign Minister Pierre Nze]

[Text] The talks between Presidents Denis Sassou-Nguesso and Aristides Pereira were held in an atmosphere of sincere friendship and (?mutual) understanding.

After examing certain aspects of the present international situation, especially those concerning Africa, the two presidents examined their bilateral relations at length. They expressed their conviction that these talks have opened up new perspectives to develop relations between Cape Verde and Congo. In the field of international relations, the two presidents expressed their concern about the ever-increasing international tensions which tend to endanger international peace.

They noted with concern the alarming deepening of the world economic crisis, the persistence of unfair relations between the rich and poor nations, major cause of [words indistinct]. They also noted [words indistinct] which does not enable them to appreciate the important [words indistinct].

The two heads of state reaffirmed their countries' adherence to the fundamental principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, [words indistinct] noninterference in the internal affairs of states, and to the peaceful settling of conflicts between states. They stressed on the need to respect the [words indistinct]. The two heads of state condemned all forms of intervention [words indistinct]. They condemned all types of racial discrimination, especially, apartheid. In this regard they reiterated their conviction that the right of human activity should prevail. They reaffirmed their support to the [word indistinct] the independence and the territorial integrity of Namibia and the UN resolutions against apartheid. They expressed their total solidarity with SWAPO, the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people. They condemned the repeated aggressions of the racist regime against independent states like Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, [words indistinct].

The two heads of state also stressed the importance of a peaceful and lasting solution to the Middle East problem, and a respect of the national rights of the Palestinian people. [passage indistinct]

Finally, the two heads of state examined the economic and commercial relations between the two countries. They expressed their conviction that the efforts of the two governments could constitute a [words indistinct] of bilateral cooperation and the development of exchange potentials.

At the end of his official visit, President Aristides Pereira thanked his Congolese counterpart, Col Denis Sassou-Nguesso, for the warm hospitality accorded to him and his delegation by the Congolese people. He invited his Congolese counterpart to visit Cape Verde, which President Sassou-Nguesso accepted with pleasure. The date of this visit will be fixed by diplomatic means.

GABON

REPORTS ON EVACUATION OF CAMEROONIANS CONTINUE

Foreign Minister's Statement

AB271625 Paris AFP in French 1354 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Libreville, 27 May (AFP)--The repatriation of Cameroonian citizens living in Gabon continued Wednesday morning, while the Gabonese apparently want calm after last Saturday's violent incidents in Libreville and Port-Gentil.

In a statement published Wednesday by the daily, L'UNION, the Gabonese minister of foreign affairs, Mr Martin Bongo, emphasized that he deplored what happened. Stressing the voluntary nature of the repatriation of the Cameroonian nationals, the minister added: "It should be clear to everybody that under no circumstances did the Government of Gabon envisage any expulsion of Cameroonian nationals who have been living peacefully in Gabon... and rightly take our country as their second home."

Mr Martin Bongo, who was absent at the time of the incidents, stressed that according to information reaching him, some non-Cameroonians and non-Gabonese also took active part in the disturbances. The minister has warned all troublemakers of any nationality, because such acts will tarnish Gabon's image abroad.

For Mr Martin Bongo there is no dramatizing the situation, because those seeking departure are an insignificant minority compared to the Cameroonian community residing in Gabon. The minister, who gave assurances to the Cameroonian community, said the Gabonese Government does not expel anybody.

Authoritative sources say that, in addition to the Cameroonian planes that began the airlift Sunday evening between Libreville and Douala, French military Transall planes have been made available to the Governments of Gabon and Cameroon for humanitarian reasons.

No information is available yet on the total number of Cameroonians repatriated via the Cameroonian planes, comprising three army transport aircraft and one airliner as well as French Transall aircraft. However, reliable sources said that on Tuesday at midday, a total of 4,000 people had been evacuated while the Cameroonian Embassy estimates say 4,000 Cameroonians are still awaiting their departure.

28 May Report

AB282042 Paris AFP in French 1453 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Libreville, 28 May (AFP)--The evacuation to Douala of Cameroonian nationals from Port-Gentil, Gabon's oil producing area situated 130 km south of the capital, was believed to have started on Thursday morning, informed sources said in Libreville. According to some employees of a French company taking part in oil activities in the region, more than 600 Cameroonians have assembled at a kind of camp with a barbed wire-netted fence.

According to reports, some Cameroonians have continued to arrive at this assembly point, either alone or in small groups, carrying bundles of clothing or suitcases.

In another development, it is learned from a reliable source that 165 Cameroonian workers and their families have been trapped at Ndole on the site of the Eurotrag company which is constructing the trans-Gabon railway line. The workers have expressed their desire to return home and negotiations were believed to be underway for the past three days.

Before they boarded the plane for Paris during the night, the French travelers noted that Port-Gentil still bore the signs of the violent clashes which took place last Saturday simultaneously with those in Libreville.

A mechanic, who had returned from the oil fields on Wednesday, stated that he had seen a large number of stores and houses which were looted, including a supermarket which reportedly lost goods worth several million CFA francs. He added that the looters removed corrugated iron sheets from the roofs of the houses in order to get in. In other places witnesses report that the iron security grate of a store was removed like a piece of paper. Meanwhile, between Sunday evening and Thursday midday,the air bridge between Libreville and Douala made it possible to airlift some 6,750 Cameroonians to their country, reliable sources say.

The same sources add that the movements of the planes were slowed down on Wednesday afternoon because of the departure of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf after a working visit to Libreville and on Thursday morning due to the departure of Gabonese President Omar Bongo for Equatorial Guinea.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON SENEGAL LEADER'S VISIT

AB272147 Paris AFP in French 1855 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Libreville, 27 May (AFP)--Presidents Omar Bongo of Gabon and Abdou Diouf of Senegal have expressed their satisfaction over the development of the fruitful cooperation between their two countries at all levels and they have decided to maintain their policy of friendly consultations. This was stated in the joint communique published Wednesday in Libreville.

In this regard, the communique, which was made public following the Senegalese president's 48-hour working visit to Gabon, adds that the next session of the Gabon-Senegal joint commission on cooperation, scheduled to be held next September in Libreville, will provide another opportunity for examining ways of increasing the areas of cooperation and updating this cooperation to satisfy the development requirements of each of our two countries.

Deploring the situation in Africa, the communique continues, both heads of state have stressed the prevailing situations in Western Sahara, Chad, the Horn of Africa and southern Africa. In this regard, they have expressed their concern over the continuing deterioration of relations among African states, the proliferation of zones of tension and over attempts by African and non-African powers to destablize the continent. As a result, the two leaders have reiterated their firm determination to contribute to the rapid settlement of such conflicts in order to preserve peace and stability in Africa.

They have appealed to the international community to apply the necessary pressure on the government of Pretoria to force it to implement UN Resolution 435 on Namibia, so that the territory will recover its independence very quickly.

The communique adds that with regard to the international situation, the two delegations examined the problems of the Middle East, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, the Iraq-Iran conflict as well as the issue of disarmament and that of the world economic relations.

The senegalese head of state has invited his Gabonese counterpart to make an official visit to Senegal. The invitation was accepted and the date will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

BRAZILIAN MINISTER MEETS PRESIDENT, GRANTS LOAN

PY220222 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 May 81

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Ernane Galveas stated today before the IMF council that the world economy is going through extremely critical times and that the prospects for the medium term, according to the IMF itself, indicate that an insurmountable situation may arise for the balance of payments of several countries unless immediate courageous measures are adopted. Minister Galveas made this statement in Gabon where he is attending the meeting of the IMF acting council.

Gabonese President Omar Bongo today received Minister Galveas, who agreed to grant a $2 million to $3 million loan to Gabon for the purchase of 16 Brazilian armored cars. Galveas told the Gabonese president that although Brazil is having difficulties in bringing its balance of payments into balance, it could not possibly decline the Gabonese request because the loan will contribute to expanding trade between the two countries.

At present, there is a $600 million surplus in favor of Gabon in their bilateral trade due to the Brazilian purchases of Gabonese oil. Brazilian exports amounted only to $30 million last year, consisting primarily of Bandeirante planes, boats, trucks and household appliances.

MINISTERS GATHER FOR IMF, WORLD BANK MEETING

Appeal to U.S.

AB231025 Paris AFP in English 0755 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Libreville, May 23 (AFP)--Stressing the plight of low-income developing countries, Finance Ministers of rich and poor nations last night implicitly urged the United States to speed up its contribution to the International Development Association (IDA).

Outgoing World Bank President Robert McNamara told a news conference after a day-long session of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Development Committee that the IDA, which provides long-term loans on easy terms to the poorest Third-World nations, was at present bankrupt.

The U.S. has commited itself to contributing 3,240 million dollars towards the sixth replenishment of IDA, under which donor countries have undertaken to put up 12,000 million dollars in equal annual shares over a three-year period.

But the new U.S. administration has further delayed the operation and the IDA ran out of funds last month.

Asian countries such as India, Bangladesh and Nepal, as well as the poorest black African countries, could be seriously hurt by this issue, and the IMF and World Bank committee said in a communique tonight that the need to restore IDA's commitment authority was a matter of great urgency. It said that any extended disruption in IDA operations will have serious repercussions on the poorest developing countries.

What is holding up the new round of contributions to IDA--previously delayed by infighting between the former U.S. Carter administration and the U.S. Congress--is the Reagan team's desire to rearrange the schedule of U.S. contributions as part of its budget-cutting effort. It wants to pay in 540 million dollars in the first year, 850 million in the second and 1,850 million in the final year. But congressional committees are now seeking to further reduce the first-year figure.

Against the background of serious immediate problems facing developing countries and a poor medium-term outlook, the committee said that the plight of the low-income countries is particularly acute because of their dependence on official development assistance.

The communique said the committee recognized that in view of the magnitude of the financing needs of the developing countries, including those of China, it was of particular importance and urgency to provide the multilateral development institutions such as the World Bank and the regional banks with additional resources.

China became a member of the World Bank last year, and several governments, including India and many African countries, are worried that its huge financing needs may reduce their own access to funds on soft terms.

The committee urged the bank's board to seek a consensus on the appropriate scale of lending in the period ahead and on ways to finance it, including study of a possible change in the gearing ratio. This ratio is at present one to one--meaning that the bank can lend a total amount equal to its own capital, while private banks in some cases lend up to 20 times that amount.

The committee welcomed the reaffirmation by all major donors of support for a general increase in the bank's capital.

Voicing concern over the impact of inflation and high interest rates on external debt of Third-World nations, the committee said the debt problem should be kept under constant review. A recent World Bank study set Third-World debt at 490,000 million dollars at the end of 1979. It has continued to rise since then.

It also called for greater private sector involvement in boosting the flow of funds to developing nations and decided to set up a task force to study concessional aid flows.

The committee, meeting for the first time on African soil, expressed concern over the deteriorating prospects for growth in sub-Saharan Africa. Mr McNamara said a special study of African problems would be ready in a few weeks. With adequate aid and economic restructuring, these countries, whose per capita growth has declined by five per cent over the past decade, should be able to boost it by 35 percent in the 1978's, he said.

The committee paid a special tribute to Mr McNamara for devoted and outstanding services as president of the bank for the past 13 years. He is leaving his post at the end of June and will be succeeded by American banker A.W. Clausen.

Romanian Minister's Address

AU232045 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1816 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Libreville, 23 May (AGERPRES)--Taking the floor during the proceedings of the IMF Interim Committee and of the Joint Fund World Bank Committee, Petre Gigea, minister of finance, head of the Romanian delegation, pointed out that the modalities of credit granting, conceived as an instrument of promoting economic and financial cooperation among states, of expanding commercial relations among nations, tend, given the current high rates of interest, to turn into a brake to the development of mutual collaboration with unfavorable bearing on the developing countries in particular.

The need was stressed for both the IMF and the World Bank to play a more active role in preventing the rise in the interests on credits, inclusive of the credits granted by the IMF and the IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development], to initiated concrete measures meant to bring them to more reasonable limits.

With a view to attaining this goal it it necessary that national and international credit institutions, the governments of all states, of the industrialized ones in particular, should rally their efforts and adopt policies for fighting inflation and other negative phenomena with a view to ensuring the economic and financial stability necessary for a productive, mutually advantageous cooperation among all the countries of the world. This the Romanian representative said is a highly important problem, an important element of the concept of a new international economic and monetary order.

While in Libreville, the Romanian minister of finance had interviews with IMF and IBRD executives, with whom he examined current questions relating to Romania'a collaboration with those international financial organizations, and with heads of some of the delegations participating in the meeting.

He also conducted talks with Georges Rawiri, Gabonese first deputy prime minister, with Martin Bongo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of Gabon, with other members of the Gabonese government.

LIBERIA

MATTHEWS ASKS NIGERIA'S AUDU 'TO WORK WITH HIM'

AB252037 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] The foreign minister has requested the Nigerian foreign minister, Ishaya Audu, to continue to work with him and not permit anything to undermine the efforts over the past years at consolidating Nigerian-Liberian relations. Clarifying the recent pronouncement by head of state Doe on government position with regard to honoring the ECOWAS protocol on the free movement of citizens of ECOWAS member states, the foreign minister indicated that the head of state's remarks were not directed at the government and people of Nigeria or any other government for that matter. Rather, he said the remarks were directed against those foreigners and the Liberian [word indistinct] who were engaged in acts that were frowned upon and completely contrary to the intent of their governments. The minister then assured his Nigerian colleague of Liberia's continued cooperation, friendship and solidarity.

In another development, the Foreign Affairs Ministry has announced that Foreign Minister G. Baccus Matthews returned home today from Paris where he attended a UN and OAU international conference on sanctions against South Africa which began on 20 May and expected to run through 27 May. Indicating why he had interrupted his attendance to return home, Minister Matthews said that his early return arises from a concern about the ECOWAS meeting in Freetown which the head of state has now decided to attend. The minister indicated, however, that at the time of his departure from Paris, he had made appropriate arrangements to ensure that no negative reaction developed against Liberia because of alleged violation of sanctions against South Africa by Liberian-registered vessels.

NIGER

FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS FOR RETURN TO BASIC VALUES

AB251840 Paris AFP in French 0943 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] Niamey, 25 May (AFP)--Africa should resort to its authentic values of dialogue and fraternity to resolve the fratricidal conflicts which are undermining and threatening the continent, the Niger foreign minister, Mr Daouda Diallo, declared Monday on the occasion of African Liberation Day. Among these problems, Mr Diallo cited Chad, Western Sahara and the Horn of Africa.

Chad should be saved, he said, without any sectarianism or complaisance, only with the interest of Chad in mind and on the basis of the declaration of OAU ad hoc committee which met in Lome on 14 January 1980.

On Western Sahara and the Horn of Africa, Mr Diallo said OAU member countries should more than ever before show foresightedness, wisdom, courage and faith in the destiny of their community.

NIGERIA

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES VISITING SOVIET DELEGATION

AB272225 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Nigeria has expressed support for the curtailment of the arms race. The vice president gave the support in Lagos today when he received a delegation of the Soviet Union who paid him a courtesy visit. Dr Ekwueme argued that no meaningful development could take place in any part of the world without peace and stability. He expressed Nigeria's preparedness to cooperate with all peace-loving nations.

The vice president expressed delight on the existing relationship between Lagos and Moscow. Dr Ekwueme congratulated the Soviet Union for its support in the eradication of colonialism and racism in Africa, and he stated that Nigeria would not compromise the freedom of any part of the African Continent.

The spokesman for the delegation said that the team was in Nigeria to promote cooperation between the two countries and thereby peace in the world. Before leaving for home on 3 June 1981, the delegation is expected to visit various industrial projects in Nigeria and pay a courtesy call on President Shehu Shagari.

PRESS DISCUSSES CHAD, CAMEROON SITUATIONS

AB271142 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 27 May 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The NEW NIGERIAN discusses the latest development in Chad and expresses satisfaction that the issues at stake have virtually been resolved. The paper is particularly delighted that Libya has agreed to finally withdraw her troops from that country to pave way for a neutral OAU peace-keeping force. It notes, however, that the withdrawal will come in only after the African force is stationed there to avoid a situation whereby Chad will be vulnerable to threats by intervention. On the representation of the force, the NEW NIGERIAN says that fear being expressed over Nigeria's participation has been discouraged by the Chadian president himself who insisted on Nigeria's involvement in the peace-keeping operation.

In its editorial titled "Discipline That Foe," The NIGERIAN TRIBUNE takes yet another look at the Nigerian-Cameroon border incident in which five Nigerian soldiers were killed by Cameroonian troops. The paper wonders why President Ahmadou Ahidjo should send a junior minister to deliberate with Nigerian authorities adding that it is a sad reflection of the importance Cameroon attaches to the issue. The TRIBUNE, therefore, calls on the Federal Government to take positive measures against Cameroon as a way of forestalling future encroachment on Nigeria's territorial integrity.

OIL MARKET FLUCTUATIONS WILL NOT HARM 5-YEAR PLAN

AB281415 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] The vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, has said that fluctuations in the oil market will not hinder the realization of the set targets in the current five-year national development plan. He gave the assurance yesterday when members of an international business group, currently on a factfinding mission to the country, paid him a courtesy call in his office. Dr Ekwueme told the businessmen that the Nigerian economy was (?excelling) enough to absorb the exigencies of such fluctuations. On problems encountered by prospective investors in the acquisition of information, the vice president stated that the Federal Government has streamlined foreign investment procedures to ensure that relevant information was secured from one source. Earlier, a spokesman for the group, Mr (Ovious Kuximan), of Business International Corporation of New York, had explained that the motive of the group was to examine Nigeria's economic program and determine in which areas the company could invest.